



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.ManhattanCB4.org

**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

January 5, 2007

Council Member Gale Brewer  
563 Columbus Avenue  
New York, NY 10024

**Re: Intro. 199: The Traffic Information and Relief Bill**

Dear Council Member Brewer :

Community Board #4 supports Intro. 199: The Traffic Information and Relief Bill. We believe this bill will encourage city policies that focus on pedestrian access and safety and non-traditional modes of transportation.

Automobile traffic, pedestrian safety, and environmental and noise pollution are concerns of our community. In addition, the character of many of our neighborhoods is being challenged by growing and excess traffic. Increased development in the Hudson Yards, midtown and Chelsea, as well as expected growth in commuter areas West of the Lincoln Tunnel are likely to make the situation worse.

The Community Board thus very much supports the four main goals of Intro 199 to:

- 1) Improve traffic flow and reduce gridlock;
- 2) Reduce environmental and noise pollution;
- 3) Increase the utilization of public and alternative modes of transportation and improve pedestrian safety; and
- 4) Prepare for a New York City with 9 million residents.

This legislation mandates the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish and meet specific "performance targets and indicators" that work "towards the goal of reducing traffic congestion citywide." Currently DOT collects information necessary for daily operations and not for this degree of planning. We understand that the collection of quality data focused on the above goals is at the core of this legislation and that improved information will better enable New York City to improve transportation, better balance traffic flow with pedestrian access and safety and plan for growth.

There are a few minor changes we would propose to the legislation that we hope can be considered during the public hearing process.

- Information should be collected and disseminated, where relevant, not only a citywide and borough basis but also by Community Board and/or Police District;
- Information be collected and disseminated bi-annually;
- DOT work with Community Boards and DOITT to ensure the information is readily available and accessible to the public for community planning purposes;

- The legislation include additional and more precise indicators and performance targets. Specifically, we would request that Emergency Medical Services' response times, Pedestrian accidents, pedestrian traffic related deaths, and enforcement data be collected and disseminated.

The Community Board appreciates the interest that both Councilwoman Brewer, the sponsor of the legislation, and Transportation Alternatives have expressed in these issues and the above Community Board recommendations and look forward to working with them in improving transportation planning and policies in New York City.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Jay Marcus  
Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee